

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are active in the present application. The claims have been amended for clarity and to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--1. (Amended) A process for producing a scratch-resistant [coatings] coating, said process comprising:[encompassing the following steps:]

[-] applying at least one UV-curable coating composition to at least one surface of an article to be coated, said coating composition comprising at least one polymer and/or oligomer P1 containing [on] an average of at least one ethylenically unsaturated double bond per molecule, and

[-] curing [the] said coating composition by exposure to UV radiation[, which comprises conducting the curing of the coating composition] under an oxygen-containing protective gas which has an oxygen partial pressure in the range of from 0.2 to 18 kPa.

2. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer and/or oligomer P1 has a double bond content in the range of from 0.01 to 1 mol/100 g of P1.

3. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in [either of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein [the] a number-average molecular weight of P1 is [within] in the range of from 400 to 10,000 daltons.

4. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the ethylenic double bonds in P1 are in the form of acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamido or methacrylamido groups.

5. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein P1 is selected from the group consisting of urethane (meth)acrylates, polyester (meth)acrylates, oligoether (meth)acrylates[,] and epoxy (meth)acrylates.

6. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the UV-curable coating [compositions comprise] composition further comprises one or more reactive diluents [in addition to P1].

7. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reactive diluent is selected from the group consisting of compounds having one or two acrylate [and/or] groups, compounds having one or two methacrylate groups and mixtures thereof.

8. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the article to be coated is a three-dimensional structure.

9. (Amended) [A] The process as claimed in [any of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein [that] a region of an installation in which the coating is cured by exposure to UV radiation is flushed with a protective gas.--